

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/714,439
Response to June 7, 2005 Office Action
Response Dated September 27, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims by replacing the original claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1. (Currently amended) A one-step process of creating an interpenetrating polymer network sheet [[12]] bonded to a backing material [[40]] comprising the steps of a) casting a liquid polymer formulation [[10]] as a coating [[11]] onto a carrier substrate [[20]], b) applying a microporous polymer sheeting membrane [[30]] to the surface of the coating [[11]] and allowing or causing said liquid polymer layer [[10]] to impregnate said microporous polymer membrane [[30]], c) applying a backing material [[40]] to the distal surface [[25]] of the impregnated membrane [[30]], and (d) causing a bond to form between the backing material [[40]] and the impregnated membrane [[30]] to form a composite sheet [[52]], and e) solidifying the liquid polymer formulation,

wherein the composite sheet is formed by curing together in a single pass through an oven, said impregnated membrane and said backing material.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the liquid polymer formulation [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the microporous polymer membrane [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

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Claim 4. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the backing material is textile fabric [[40]].

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the backing material is ~~non-textile fabric or foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric.~~

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the bond between the backing material [[40]] and the distal or upper surface of the membrane [[30]] is enhanced by exposure to vacuum by means of a vacuum roller device [[100]] placed in contact with the distal or upper surface [[35]] of the backing material [[40]] prior to solidification of the liquid polymer formulation.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer membrane [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and the backing material [[40]] is textile fabric.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer sheet [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and the backing material [[40]] is foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric a non-textile material.

Claims 9, 10-12. (Withdrawn)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A ~~one-step~~ process of creating an interpenetrating polymer network sheet [[12]] bonded to a backing material [[40]] comprising the steps of a) casting a liquid polymer formulation [[10]] as a coating [[11]] onto a carrier substrate [[20]], b) applying a lamination of microporous polymer sheeting membrane and backing material [[110]]

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to the surface of the coating [[11]] and allowing or causing said liquid polymer layer [[10]] to impregnate said microporous polymer membrane, and c) solidifying the liquid polymer formulation;

wherein the composite sheet is formed by curing together in a single pass through an oven, said impregnated membrane and said backing material.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the liquid polymer formulation [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the microporous polymer membrane [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the backing material is textile fabric [[40]].

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the backing material is non-textile fabric or foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer membrane [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and the backing layer [[40]] is textile fabric.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 13, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer sheet [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and the backing layer [[40]] is foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric a non-textile material.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn)

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Claim 21. (Currently amended) A ~~single pass~~ method of making a wound dressing or scar management product comprising the steps of forming a layer [[10]] of liquid polymer formulation onto a carrier substrate [[20]], laying a layer [[30]] of microporous polymer sheeting membrane laminated to a backing material on top of the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]], impregnating the microporous polymer sheeting membrane layer [[30]] with the liquid polymer formulation by capillary wicking through the small pores in the microporous polymer sheeting forming an interpenetrating polymer network sheet [[12]], and solidifying the liquid polymer formulation by passing in a single pass through an oven, said laminated layer of microporous polymer sheeting membrane, said backing material, and liquid polymer formulation layer.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the liquid polymer formulation [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the microporous polymer membrane [[30]] is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the backing material is textile fabric [[40]].

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the backing material is non-textile fabric or foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric.

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Claim 26. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer membrane 30 is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and the backing layer 40 is textile fabric.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 21, wherein the liquid polymer formulation layer [[10]] is polydimethylsiloxane, the microporous polymer sheet 30 is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, and the backing layer 40 is foam, a nonwoven film, or material other than a textile fabric a non-textile material.